

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05139 151825Z
ACTION ABF-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 GAO-01 /015 W
-----122801 160522Z /11
R 151806Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5499

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 05139

FRANKFURT FOR GAO, MR. JOSEPH EDER, FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AGAO, MARR, MASS, BE
SUBJECT: PROPOSED GAO VISIT

REF: GAO FRANKFURT DIRECTOR EDER LETTER TO AMBASSADOR,
MARCH 8

1. WHILE YOUR LETTER DID NOT ASK FOR MY APPROVAL FOR THE PROPOSED GAO TEAM TO VISIT THE BELGIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, LOCAL BELGIAN SUBCONTRACTORS, AND OTHERS, TO LOOK INTO THE F-16 PROGRAM, I ASSUME THAT WAS AN OVERSIGHT.
2. UNFORTUNATELY, I CANNOT AGREE TO SUCH A VISIT AT THIS TIME.
3. WE HAVE REPORTED IN THE PAST ON THE HIGH DEGREE OF SENSITIVITY THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS SHOWN OVER PREVIOUS GAO REPORTS ON THE F-16 PROGRAM WHEN SUCH PUBLIC REPORTS HAVE TOUCHED ON ISSUES THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS PRIVILEGED INFORMATION. YOU MAY RECALL THAT THE BELGIANS PREVIOUSLY COOPERATED WITH THE GAO ONLY ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO REVIEW AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 05139 151825Z

CORRECT ERRORS, IF ANY, IN THE REPORT IN DRAFT PRIOR TO ITS PUBLICATION.

4. I AM AWARE OF THE GAO'S RESPONSIBILITIES AND MANDATE TO EXAMINE THE U.S. ASPECTS OF THE F-16 PROGRAM, DIFFICULT THOUGH IT MAY BE TO SEPARATE THOSE ASPECTS FROM EUROPEAN ASPECTS. HOWEVER, YOU STATE THAT ONE AREA YOU WANT TO

EXAMINE IS THE FAVORABLE ASPECTS OF THE F-16 PROGRAM FOR OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES. THIS WOULD CLEARLY REQUIRE DISCUSSIONS WITH A NUMEROUS BELGIAN OFFICIALS AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES.

5. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE GAO PLANS TO ISSUE A REPORT ENTITLED "AIR FORCE'S F-16 AIRCRAFT PROGRAM - ITS STATUS AND CONCERNS" ON OR ABOUT MARCH 24. UNTIL WE RECEIVE THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT'S REACTION TO THAT REPORT (WHICH WE HAVE NOT SEEN), I BELIEVE IT INAPPROPRIATE TO REQUEST BELGIAN GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE FOR YOUR TEAM WHICH, ACCORDING TO YOUR LETTER, WOULD BE IN BELGIUM AT THAT TIME.

6. AFTER WE HAVE RECEIVED THE REPORT MENTIONED ABOVE AND THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT'S REACTION TO IT, I WOULD BE PREPARED, ASSUMING NO PROBLEMS ARISE, TO AUTHORIZE A VISIT BY YOUR TEAM TO APPROPRIATE BELGIANS AND TO ASSIST IT IN MAKING THE CONTACTS NECESSARY.

7. SHOULD YOU WISH TO HAVE YOUR TEAM DISCUSS THE F-16 PROGRAM WITH MEMBERS OF MY STAFF, INCLUDING CASEUR, AND THE U.S. PRIME CONTRACTORS, I AM PREPARED TO AUTHORIZE THEIR VISIT. PLEASE LET ME KNOW YOUR WISHES IN THIS REGARD. I HAVE ASKED MY DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION TO TELEPHONE YOU TO GO OVER THESE MATTERS WITH YOU IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 05139 151825Z

GREATER DETAIL. CHAMBERS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION SECURITY, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE05139
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780116-0734
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780368/aaaacevv.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bf5ecec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ABF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3329037
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED GAO VISIT
TAGS: AGAO, MARR, MASS, BE, (EDER, JOSEPH)
To: FRANKFURT
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bf5ecec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014